



3 offices moving out of county courthouse

Juvenile services, CASA,
Professional Partners
Program plan to relocate

By Julie Blum

jblum@columbustelegram.com

COLUMBUS — Three county offices will be moving out of the Platte County Courthouse and into a county annex building.

The Platte County Board of Supervisors approved Tuesday relocating juvenile services, CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) and the Professional Partners Program to the building, located just north of the courthouse at 1426 27th Ave.

The building, formerly Giebelhaus Investment Services, was purchased by the county about a year ago. The board debated which offices to move into the building after a tour of the courthouse.

Supervisor Hollie Olk said the decision to relocate those services was based on space and the opportunity to give the offices the ability to better serve the public.

All three offices work with families and juveniles and can serve those individuals during day or evening sessions.

Both CASA and Professional Partners are located on the second floor of the courthouse. Juvenile services is in the basement. For people to access those offices, they have to go

through the courthouse.

“This puts everybody in a better spot,” Olk said of the move.

How the courthouse space vacated by the offices will be used hasn’t been finalized, but Olk said it is likely that a University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension employee who is currently on the second floor will be moved to the basement with the other Extension office personnel. Probation will probably be expanded on the second floor.

Hopes are that renovations on the annex building will be done soon and the offices can move there within the next 30 days. Renovations left to be completed include plumbing and installing and cleaning carpet.

Also at the meeting, the board discussed the road leading into Lake Oconee. At its previous meeting, improvements to the road were brought up by residents at the gated community. They said the road is in poor condition and floods when it rains.

County Highway Superintendent Terry Wicht said his office tended to the road

when it rained Oct. 14.

“That road took a pretty good hit,” he said.

The road was stabilized by putting dirt and rock on it where sand was exposed by the rain. Wicht asked the board for direction on what else he should do regarding the road. He was told he had done enough for the moment and should bill Lake Oconee and Columbus townships for the work as those two entities are responsible for maintaining the road.

In other business, the board approved a new rural road improvement district for Sunset Meadows Subdivision and Sunset Meadows Second Subdivision and also appointed residents to an advisory board.

Sunset Meadows is located along 48th Avenue south of 83rd Street. The improvement district was created to address drainage issues on the roads in the area and determine what effect paving the roads would have on the issue.

The nine-person advisory board includes Sunset Meadows residents Travis Tessenorf, Thomas Tucker, Johnathan Koch, David

Rohwer, Mark Saltz, Casey Scholl, Bill McMeekin, Mark Roe and Jay White.

The supervisors also set a hearing date for 10:30 a.m. Nov. 19 on the county’s proposed engine braking policy. At a previous meeting, a resident of Whitetail Lake complained about the noise created by truck drivers using engine brakes.

At that time, the board discussed posting signs prohibiting engine braking in areas of the county where there have been complaints from residents or business owners. There is a ban on engine braking within the city of Columbus.

The board also approved:

- paying \$435 to the Granville Cemetery Association for cleanup and care of the Granville Cemetery near Cornlea. The payment covers expenses by Irvin Mueller, who presented a bill for mowing and spraying the grounds, as well as mileage.

- purchasing three computers at a cost of \$5,500 from Electronic Contracting Company for the Platte County Detention Facility.